Criticism of Government Media

321. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Radio and Doordarshan and other Government Media agencies have not been serving the people;

(b) whether Government have taken note of the severe criticism in the press and Public about Government Media; and

(c) whether Government propose to set up a Board of eminent public men both from the Media and Cinema Industry to review periodically the performance of Radio and Doordarshan?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Whenever there is criticism against the electronic media, viz, All India Radio and Doordarshan, the point of criticism is enquired into and corrective action taken, wherever necessary.

(c) No, Sir.

Import of wheat from USA Unfit for human Consumption

322. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat imported by the Food Corporation of India from America in December, 1988;

(b) the quantity of pest infected wheat supplied to States, State-wise; and

(c) the total quantity of wheat which was destroyed by Food Corporation of India as unfit for human consumption?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITA): (a) A quantity of 20.11 lakh tonnes of wheat has been imported from USA during 1988-89.

(b) and (c) Even though some very stray incidence of ergot and dwarf affected grains were detected in some of the shipments, these are well within the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act limits and the entire consignment of wheat imported from USA is fit for human consumption. Such type of wheat has been imported by us since 1950s and is being currently exported by USA in huge quantities to such major consumers like USSR, Japan, Pakistan, Bangladesh etc. Though entire consignment of US wheat is meant for human consumption and chances of dwarf bunt infestation spreading in wheat cultivation in India are negligible yet as a measure of abundant caution, dwarf affected wheat has been diverted to non-wheat growing areas to avoid chances of its being used by some one per chance as seed.

The following table gives quantities of ergot and dwarf bunt affected wheat diverted to various States:—

(Quantity in M.T.)

Ports/States	Quantity affected by Ergot	Quantity affected with both Ergot and Dwarf Bunt	Quantity affected by Dwarf Bunt
Goa	3329	13184	..
Maharashtra	25924	37570	..
Gujarat	54317	178722	..
Tamilnadu	40230	..	106813
Andhra Pradesh	35733	..	88928
Kerala	92276	..	25900
Karnataka	63665	..	..
TOTAL	315474	229476	221641